



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20240

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To: Regional and Associate Directors

From: Acting Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

Subject: Cessation of all Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Flight Operations for Non-Emergency Events

On January 29, 2020 Secretarial Order 3379 was issued from the Secretary of Interior for the [Temporary Cessation of Non-Emergency Unmanned Aircraft Systems Fleet Operations](#).

The intent of this Order is to better ensure cybersecurity and the supply of American-made technology including component parts of UAS whether procured for use, or in operations supporting Department of Interior (DOI) and National Park Service (NPS) non-emergency missions.

This Order covers activities conducted in furtherance of the missions of NPS, using NPS funds, or for purposes identified in a cooperative agreement, contract, grant, or other agreement between the NPS and another party. Designated components of UAS include but are not limited to hardware and software components necessary for collecting, storing, and transmitting data or similar information.

All non-emergency UAS flights which take off, or land, on NPS lands and waters fall under this temporary cessation of activities. All UAS activities conducted for the benefit of NPS, further the NPS mission, expend NPS funds, or identified via written documentation fall under this temporary cessation of activities. This includes, but is not limited to contracted UAS flight services, end-product contracts, UAS filming via special use permits, grants, cooperator approvals, cooperator agreements with universities, military, and/or other entities or researchers utilizing Scientific Research Collecting Permit (SRCP)s. Nor shall funds be expended on UAS hardware, software, systems, components or contracts.

UAS flights may continue as needed for [emergency operations](#). An Emergency Operation is defined as:

- 1) a UAS mission to fight wildland fire, measures to help prevent wildland fire, and monitor for or respond to a potential/declared national or state emergency involving human safety or to prevent imminent damage to human life and property; or
- 2) a human search and rescue effort that involves the preservation or safety of human life or physical property.

If an emergency operation exists and requires a DOI-owned UAS, the official directing the operation shall submit a completed [Emergency Operation Report](#) within 24 hours after operations have concluded or within 48 hours after operations have commenced, whichever is earlier. This form shall be emailed to [NIFC\\_NPS\\_Aviation\\_Management@nps.gov](mailto:NIFC_NPS_Aviation_Management@nps.gov) with the subject line: Emergency Operation Reporting Form.

Requests for UAS training for emergency readiness shall complete the [Emergency Readiness Waiver](#) at least 30 days prior to the proposed training date. This waiver will provide for currency and proficiency training for current NPS fleet pilots. Training requests for currency or proficiency for emergency readiness shall submit the request form [NIFC\\_NPS\\_Aviation\\_Management@nps.gov](mailto:NIFC_NPS_Aviation_Management@nps.gov) with the subject line: NPS [Park/Office/Unit] Emergency Readiness Waiver.

The Secretarial Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.

Questions can be directed to John Buehler, Aviation Branch Chief, (208) 387-5227.

Attachments:

NPS FAQs

UAS Waiver and Reporting Form Instructions

cc: Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation